

23 JAN 1950

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## GENERAL

1. Possible shift in Soviet tactics in Austria--In discussing the new Soviet attitude in Austria, US Legation Vienna expresses the opinion that increasingly "vigorous" Soviet tactics in the Allied Commission and the harsher Soviet attitude toward the Austrian population may be explained as attempts to intimidate the Austrian Government and people in order to minimize Austrian objections to Soviet stalling on the Austrian treaty negotiations. The Legation, however, does not exclude the possibility of a basic change in Soviet strategy, perhaps including a decision to split Austria along the German pattern. The Legation points out that the Kremlin may now consider that: (a) an early treaty and the subsequent withdrawal of Soviet troops would no longer enable the USSR to gain dominance over all of Austria; (b) the liquidation of Tito requires the presence of Soviet troops in Austria; and (c) the USSR must now concentrate on the further integration of the present Soviet sphere, including eastern Austria. The Legation recommends that regardless of the reasons behind Soviet stalling on the Austrian treaty, the US put Soviet intentions squarely to the test and use all available means to obtain Soviet withdrawal from Austria.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that the present aggressive attitude of Soviet officials in Austria reflects the continuing Soviet desire to delay conclusion of an Austrian treaty rather than a Soviet decision to attempt to split Austria in the near future.)

State Dept. review completed

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EUROPE

2. FRANCE: Speed urged in decisions on MDAP requests--  
US Ambassador Bruce in Paris expresses the opinion that anything that can be done to speed decisions on French requests under the Military Defense Aid Program (MDAP) would be "most helpful" to US security interests. Bruce points out that French Defense Minister Pleven, in planning for recruitment and disposition of French land forces, is faced with decisions affected by the delivery dates on MDAP aid. According to Bruce, Pleven considers that it would be unwise to give the Communists an opportunity to build up their propaganda on Western disunity by any protracted delay in MDAP deliveries.

(CIA Comment: CIA agrees that any delay in MDAP shipments to France is likely to be effectively exploited by the French Communist Party as evidence of Western disunity.)

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